3: Barrett E-5 (1908-1909)1925
SD6 Cayapa SD6

323 After a pot has become fairly dry and hard, its surface receives the final smoothing, and in some cases it is given [824 413] almost a polish. This is done by means of a large discoidal nut, called mūlūmbū mūñge'nū, indigenous to the region. The same nut is used in making tops and also the spinning handles for tops. In pl. LXXXV, 1, 4, it is shown used in these two ways. In smoothing pottery the edge of the nut is wet with saliva and is rubbed back and forth repeatedly over the vessel, thus smoothing the surface and making it more impervious by filling the pores. No slip or paint of any kind is used.

The vessels are now ready for firing. A quantity of wood is gathered and the pots are carried to an open place near the house. Here they are stacked one within another or arranged on the ground in any convenient manner, and a kiln is made by carefully piling wood around and among them. Coals are brought from the fire-box in the house, the pile is ignited, and the fire is carefully watched and more wood added as required. A pottery kiln is shown in pl. LXXXIX, the photograph for which was taken just after the fire was lighted. This firing process requires from twenty minutes to an hour, depending on the number and size of the pots, and the quantity of wood used. As the fire dies down, the pots are left as shown in pl. XC, being now thoroughly fired. The earthenware is generally removed with a pole while still hot, and is tested by tapping gently to detect any possible cracking. If badly cracked the vessels are [356] immediately thrown away, but in the case of large pots that are only slightly cracked, they are often kept and repaired with wax (brea).

3: Barrett E-5 (1908-1909)1925
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The material of this class next in importance to the rampile is that obtained from the petiole of the hoja blanca, called by the Cayapa fi'ba hakī, signifying, as does the Spanish term, "white leaf." This plant has a long pinnate leaf somewhat similar to that of the banana, but with a long, round, slender, and fairly hard petiole. It derives its name from the fact that the under-surface of the leaf-blade has a thick coating of white bloom. The strips of this material used in basket-making are obtained from the petiole of the leaf in the same manner as are those of the rampile, except that before splitting off the bark it is scraped. This removes a thin, succulent outer coat of light-green, and leaves the inner creamy-white bark which is hard and tough, though very thin. This hoja blanca bark is used chiefly for making small hamper-shape baskets (figs. 15–17) used as receptacles for trinkets, though it is frequently employed in making fans, especially the finer ones. It is much less durable than is the rampile, and for that reason, as also on account of its thinness, it is not adapted to the manufacture of large hampers or of mats.

The blades of the leaves of hoja blanca find a variety of uses, chief among which is as a covering for cargoes of canoes to protect them against rain. The leaves are much tougher than are those of most plants of a similar kind in this region and shed water perfectly. They are used even for repairing leaks in house-thatch, though they are never employed for entirely thatching a permanent building.

Hoja blanca is the only basket material which is ever artificially colored. The strips are stained with red